

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY

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Biomedical TECHNOLOGY

Advances

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A Message From The President



DR. ALVIN O. AUSTIN
President

From its earliest days, LeTourneau University has been about technology, and it remains committed to leadership in the field of technological education.

We are proud of our programs in engineering, engineering technology, computer science and aeronautical science, as well as how we integrate technology into the learning environment on campus. These flagship programs, coupled with our strong and growing programs in the biological sciences, have paved the way for our entrance as the first Christian university in the world to have a program in biomedical engineering. We are proud of that distinction.

The infusion of technology into our daily lives is a reality that we all face. Most of us know people whose lives have been impacted by new medical technologies from heart pacemakers to artificial hips. As the baby boomer generation ages, the call for more medical technology will only increase as people live longer lives.

Virtually no one on the campus is untouched by the advances in technology over the recent years. It brings information instantly to our fingertips, as well as new methods of communication, decision-making, learning, doing. Students, faculty, parents, staff, external entities like accrediting bodies and government departments are all demanding more and more, faster and faster.

Administrative management systems are developed that promise to make life easier but fail to do so after expending millions to implement. Then, when they fail, the companies disappear and merge, offering other products at new and higher costs than those that they abandoned. We have added bandwidth connectivity at a rapid pace only to see it literally gobbled up by the voracious appetite of a technologically savvy student body and campus.

How to meet the demands for hardware, software, connectivity and personnel to support these is one of the biggest challenges facing all universities. There are days when we feel we should just commit the entire university budget to this area of need, then we still might not meet expectations.

We have great leadership in this area as we follow our Technology Master Plan that guides our buying and using technology campuswide.

We are proud of our investment in technology and our state-of-the-art Cisco IP telephone system that links our campus telephones and computers together seamlessly. Our continued commitment to a cycle of replacing almost all personal computers every three years helps keep us up to date. Every residence hall has computer accessibility, and we have two wireless hubs on campus, one at our Margaret Estes Library and the other at our Glaske Center for Engineering, Technology and Science, and more are to come.

Our PACT education certificate program is primarily delivered online, except for one Saturday class session per month. Online courses are now delivered to students all over the world, and beginning next fall, we will offer a LeTourneau MBA degree online.

Technology is an elusive thing. It is a bane and a blessing, a pain and a pleasure. What's hot today is cold tomorrow. It is one of those indispensable advances in our culture that has brought significant enrichment to all of our lives, but requires us to be adaptable to constant change as technology continues to improve at a rapid rate. But the future is in technology, and we can't shrink from the investment in technological improvements because of the fear of obsolescence.

While we continue to see great advances in other curricular areas of our campus and, unlike in some prior years, we are truly proud of the great quality and growing diversity of those programs, we remain committed to being a leader in technological education. At no time in our history have we had better programs, better faculty, better equipment and better students in the various fields of technology than we have at LeTourneau University today. ■

NOW

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ALVIN O. AUSTIN, Ph.D.
PUBLISHER

JANET RAGLAND
MANAGING EDITOR

AMY HALBERT
EDITOR

TOM BARNARD
GRAPHIC DESIGN / PHOTOGRAPHY

KENDALL HARPER
CLASS NOTES

THE IMAGING BUREAU
PRINTING

CONTACT INFORMATION:
PHONE: 903-233-3000
WEB: www.letu.edu

ADMISSIONS:
PHONE: 903-233-3400
TOLL FREE: 800-759-8811

ADULT AND GRADUATE
DEGREE PROGRAMS:
PHONE: 903-233-3250
TOLL FREE: 800-388-5327

ADVANCEMENT DEPARTMENT:
PHONE: 903-233-3810
TOLL FREE: 800-259-LETU

ALUMNI OFFICE:
PHONE: 903-233-3803
E-MAIL: alumni@letu.edu

Contribute your story ideas
and letters to the editor to
NOW@letu.edu.

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**"BEHOLD, NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME; BEHOLD
NOW IS THE DAY OF OUR SALVATION." II Cor. 6:2**

LeTourneau University is a fully accredited, interdenominational Christian university located in Longview, Texas, offering academic majors in the aeronautical sciences, education, engineering, the humanities and sciences. LeTourneau University also offers business degrees and teacher certification programs at five educational centers in Austin, Bedford, Dallas, Houston and Tyler.



Dr. Paul Leiffer and Dr. Roger Gonzalez, center, lead the biomedical engineering concentration at LeTourneau University. Undergraduate students from left are Peggy Martin, Tim Stafford, Glen Edwards, Betsy Hunt and Carly VanderWoude.

Technology Advances

A 23-year-old woman speeding on a slick road to get her injured dog to the vet suddenly loses control of her SUV and slams into a tree, severing her right arm. A journalist on assignment in Iraq throws out a live grenade that was tossed into his vehicle, losing his hand but saving the lives of other passengers. A college athlete suffers a compound fracture during a football game which leads to infection and subsequent amputation.

For each of these, the future was changed in an instant.

But the future of prosthetics holds some new promise for those whose bodies have suffered the loss of a limb. Under the direction of Dr. Roger Gonzalez and Dr. Paul Leiffer, LeTourneau University engineering students in the biomedical engineering (BME) concentration are performing valuable research that could change the future for people crippled by life's sudden tragedies.

Combining the latest mechanical, electronic and biological advances, their "intelligent prosthetic arm" research is funded by nearly \$400,000 in grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Gonzalez, as primary investigator, is the program director for biomedical engineering and teaches classes in biomechanics, which was awarded the grant funding. Leiffer is co-principal investigator, teaching classes in biosignal processing, bioinstrumentation and biocontrols that support the research being done in Gonzalez' biomechanics classes and labs.

"The brain sends electrical impulses along nerves to control movement," Gonzalez said. "People who have lost arms say they feel they can move their arm, like they have a phantom arm, but they have no arm to move. They can still send signals down that severed nerve."

"The aim of our research is centered on developing a system that

will capture data from the nerve signals the body puts out, interpret those signals accurately and modify them to create a controller for a prosthetic arm," Gonzalez said.

"We're not building prosthetics. We're doing research for the controller that will interface between the human body and the arm to help a person move this arm in the most realistic form possible, rather than it being just a mechanical device. The goal is to have the strength, range of motion and flexibility of a real arm, which will meet a real human need in a direct way."

Leiffer hails Gonzalez' fresh approach.

"The approach that Roger has taken is different from the approach others have taken," Leiffer said. "The best prosthetics on the market today use little motors to move them. The best a motor can do is move something through the distance that the motor can turn it. It doesn't at all mimic the action of real muscles. Roger's approach moves like a muscle. It's a new generation in prosthetics."

Gonzalez earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso before spending three years in a manufacturing management program at General Electric, where he missed the challenge of discovery that he found so rewarding. He resigned from GE and enrolled in graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned his master's degree in biomedical engineering and his doctorate in mechanical engineering. He also was awarded a NASA research fellowship for his work on modeling a human arm.

His post-doctoral training was at Northwestern University Medical School and the prestigious Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Leiffer, who holds a doctorate in biomedical engineering from Drexel

*Written by Janet Ragland
Photography by Tom Barnard*

See **BIO**

Continued on Page 23

On Course for the future

Written by Amy Halbert



Close-up views of the PING G2i CRAZ-E

LeTourneau University graduate David Jones is living every golfer's dream—designing state-of-the-art golf clubs at PING, Inc., one of the most prestigious golf club manufacturers on the planet. Jones, a mechanical engineering major, was hired by the company right after graduation in 2002 as a design engineer and moved to PING's headquarters in Phoenix, Ariz. PING, Inc. is a Karsten Manufacturing subsidiary.

"I became involved at PING through my involvement with LeTourneau, where I met many of the university trustees, including John Solheim, the CEO of PING. This paved the way for a summer internship between my junior and senior years. From there I continued to communicate with individuals at the company, which opened the door for employment after I graduated. I am thankful to work for PING because it is a great combination of my degree and something I am passionate about—the game of golf."

Jones hit the ground running when he started work at PING. He was part of the design team that developed PING's new innovative G2i putter series. This series is custom fitted for each golfer, and uses a Polypurfelan insert, which provides a softer feel and is shaped to provide an optimum striking area.

David Jones shows off his new favorite putter, the G2i CRAZ-E, at a golf course in north Phoenix.

"When I first started, I was amazed at how much must go into the design of a golf club, much more than most people know," Jones said. "For example, in the design of most of our products, we use special high-speed cameras that are able to capture approximately 60,000 frames per second. This enables us to measure the spin rates, launch angles, club head speed and many other variables that are involved in the dynamics of a golf swing.

"We use these cameras for both human player testing and with our Pingman robots that have been designed to produce the perfect golf swing time and time again. The players (or robots) hit balls onto our private driving range that has sensors embedded beneath the surface of the grass. These sensors are able to determine the distance the ball traveled to the tenth of a yard and can therefore tell us the consistency of a particular player, or when we use the robots, the consistency of a club."

During the initial design of a golf club, PING engineers use Pro/ENGINEER Wildfire, a 3-D modeling software. This program enables them to easily create 3-D models and better visualize their designs.

"For example, if I have a new idea for a putter, I can come in and have it drawn within several hours, most of the time. From there I can send my file to our state-of-the-art rapid prototype machines that print out an actual 3-D wax part of my putter. I can then send that wax part to our foundry and have a stainless steel part cast within about a week. The steel part can then be used to test the design and determine if any changes should be made."

From this point, Jones is responsible for quality control, making sure the first parts to come off a tool or from a mold are acceptable and meet PING specifications, as he moves the project from design to manufacturing. Jones works with approximately 20-30 individuals including project managers, manufacturing engineers, purchasing agents, marketing specialists, directors and the CEO, who is very involved with each project.

"We are always working to streamline the process and move products from design to market in less time," he said. "The important part is that we are able to create equipment that will meet the demands of the consumer and outperform the competition, as PING has been known to do since the company was started in 1959."

Jones is currently working on a new putter called the G2i CRAZ-E, which is a new style of putter featuring optimum weighting, an alignment system and a very high moment of inertia. ■



Artist's rendering of the new, yet-unnamed residence hall shows a two-toned brick exterior.

New Residence Hall to Open Fall 2005

LeTourneau University continues to expand with new construction projects on the horizon.

Due to steadily increasing enrollments, construction will break ground this spring on a new residence hall located east of Thomas Hall and northwest of Speer Chapel where the old Student Services office building was located. The new residence hall is expected to be ready for students in fall 2005.

The three-story, 43,839-square-foot residence hall will house 162 students and will feature a kitchen and laundry shared by all three floors.

Estimated cost, including the new 275-plus space parking lot which also will serve Thomas and Gilbert Halls, is between \$5.5 and \$6 million.

Chapel Update: University Passes Halfway Mark

Fund-raising efforts continue for the S.E. Belcher, Jr. Chapel and Performance Center, which will be built near the entrance of campus to accommodate theater-style seating for 2,000.

The university recently received a \$1 million challenge grant from the J. E. and L. E. Mabey Foundation of Tulsa, Okla. With that commitment, the university moves past the \$8.5 million mark, getting closer to its \$15 million goal.

Three other substantial proposals are currently under consideration, with another five or six to be submitted in the next few weeks.

The public phase of the campaign for this historic landmark on the university campus will launch in late spring. Anyone interested in helping to fund this project or in helping the university make contacts with foundations, corporations and individuals who may be prospective donors, should call Vice President of Advancement Jim Hughey at (903) 233-3810 or send an e-mail to JimHughey@letu.edu. Prayer support for this endeavor is greatly appreciated. ■

Log On and Listen

Written by Shane Meling

Technology plays an important and growing part in the world of athletics, even at the college level.

At LeTourneau University, the newest technology being implemented in the athletic department is the live broadcasting of men's and women's basketball games and a weekly coach's show over the Internet at www.tsrnports.com.

Alumni, family members and fans can now log on and listen to stay in touch with LeTourneau, even when they are unable to be on campus or at the games. This new technology specifically benefits the parents of current students who live out of state.

Internet broadcasts are exciting for any college or university, and it is no different here. Broadcasting over the Internet is a new entity in athletics that broadens our audience and demonstrates that LeTourneau University athletics has an eye to the future.

Technology also is used as an important part of recordkeeping at the games. The Automated Scorebook, also called the Statcrew System, is a computer program that keeps



statistics for various sporting events. At LeTourneau, this program is used for baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball. It automatically creates Web pages that are easily uploaded to any type of Web site.

The best part about the program is that it totals all stats and checks them for possible discrepancies, allowing for accurate and efficient stat keeping, which is a *must* in the world of athletics. This technology saves time and money by cutting down on the number of people needed to keep statistics at a game. It also eliminates the need to add everything by hand, as it used to be done.

The ability to update information instantly on the Internet has made it a vital part of a healthy college athletic department. Information about coaches, players, teams, schedules, stats, games, seasons and records are a few of the things that are available on the LeTourneau athletics Web site at www.letu.edu/athletics. Coaches also are able to use the Internet to recruit student-athletes who might not have heard of LeTourneau.

Technology also has changed the way LeTourneau's athletic department sends out news releases to media outlets. It has become the method of choice for most sports reporters to get their news. E-mail allows news releases to be transferred almost instantly and targets that information to various media outlets and to specific reporters that need it. Previously, press releases were sent by fax machine, which was better than just phone, but faxing was not always as reliable as e-mail is for actually reaching the right reporters in time for their deadlines.

Between the new initiative of broadcasting games over the Internet, using the computer stat program to keep records accurately, updating the athletics Web site that disseminates information 24/7 and sending targeted e-mail news releases to get news to the right reporters instantly, technology innovations are an important part of this athletics department and have made working in athletics an exciting adventure. ■

***"Athletics changed my life.
Because of the intense discipline, training and
travel opportunities I had to different countries,
it provided a ministry tool for me."***

— Doug Wilcoxson

A New Season

Changes bring new leadership to LeTourneau athletics

Changes in the organizational structure of the LeTourneau University athletics department should help the athletics program achieve a greater level of competitiveness and excellence, according to university President Dr. Alvin O. Austin.

Austin recently assigned the athletic program to the leadership of Vice President for Student Affairs Doug Wilcoxson, who has been with the university for seven years and has prior experience with NCAA Division III athletics and NAIA athletics, both as a student-athlete and as a coach.

LeTourneau's athletics had been under the direction of Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Glenn H. Sumrall.

"Dr. Sumrall has been the administrative liaison for sports for the past 13 years, and he's done a yeoman's job, but his broader role as provost will require more of his attention. This administrative change will allow him to focus on other priorities as the university's chief academic officer," Austin said.

Wilcoxson is pleased with the new responsibility.

"Athletics changed my life," he said. "Because of the intense discipline, training and travel opportunities I had to different countries, it provided a ministry tool for me."

Wilcoxson played college basketball and baseball at Grace College in Winona Lake, Ind., and later coached basketball at Greenville College in Greenville, Ill.

"I'm excited to be a part of this new change because I feel athletics can be used as a significant teaching and learning opportunity," he said. "This is something I've always wanted

to do, and it allows me to become more involved in the lives of students.

Austin said the change was a result of routine ongoing evaluations of the university's programs.

"We want to let young men and women develop the athletic abilities they've been blessed with and to compete in our rigorous NCAA Division III conference, the American Southwest Conference, while staying consistent with our mission of faith, learning and Christian leadership," Austin said.

Wilcoxson's first challenge will be to find a new athletic director, as current AD and men's basketball coach Bernie Balikian will refocus primarily on men's basketball and other teaching and administrative duties.

"I think this is a move that will benefit the athletic department," Balikian said. "The department moved forward in the five years I was athletic director, but there is a lot of potential that LeTourneau can realize under a leader who can dedicate full attention to it. Besides, I enjoy teaching and look forward to going back into the classroom."

Austin said Balikian stepped into the AD position when the former AD left suddenly.

"Bernie knew when he took on that dual role that it would be reviewed from time to time," Austin said. "This move gives him fresh focus in his role primarily as men's basketball coach."

The university will seek to hire a new athletic director with athletic administration ability and experience at the Division III level, as well as filling coaching vacancies in men's and women's soccer, created by the departure of coaches of both of those sports. ■

News and Notes

STUDENT'S WIN, ADVANCE TO PRAGUE

A LeTourneau University computer science team won second place in the South Central USA Regional Programming Contest, sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery, and is headed to the World Finals in Prague, The Czech Republic, this spring. To qualify, the students beat teams from the University of Texas at Dallas, Rice University, the University of North Texas and Southern Methodist University. The University of Texas at Austin took first place. The LETU team included John Spiegel of Maite, Guam; Jesse McDonald of Milford, Ind.; and Daniel Engel of Salem, Ore.

ASME TEAM WINS SECOND

LeTourneau University students Michael Montesinos of Houston and Frank Dancer of Dallas won second place at the national American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Student Design Competition in Washington, D.C. Students were required

to build machines that used the gravitational potential energy stored in two liters of water 1 meter high to lift as much long-grain rice as possible up a 50 centimeter high ramp and deposit it in a receiving bin at the top of the simulated mine. The rice served as simulated ore. This year's contest was aptly titled "Moving on Up."

LETOURNEAU TO HOST C.S. LEWIS CONFERENCE

The Department of English at LeTourneau University will host the seventh annual C.S. Lewis and the Inklings Conference April 1-3, featuring guest speakers Dr. Bruce Edwards of Bowling Green State University and Dr. Louis A. Markos of Houston Baptist University. Literary scholars from around the nation will gather to explore all aspects of the study of the life, times and writings of C.S. Lewis and the other Inklings, who were Lewis' contemporaries—including J.R.R. Tolkien and Charles Williams—who wrote fantasy literature in the 20th century.

CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS GET NEW EQUIPMENT

Students and faculty are excited about the addition of a new spectrophotometer, the Avatar 370 FT-R, which measures infrared light absorbed or transmitted through a sample. Purchased through university funds and a grant from the Welch Foundation of Texas, the Avatar FT-IR has more capabilities and is easier to use than the old Perkins Elmer that it replaces. The Welch Foundation has generously supported LeTourneau's chemistry department with a grant every year for the last 10 years. The Avatar FT-IR will be used extensively in LeTourneau's organic chemistry, chemical analysis and physical chemistry courses and in student research. Coupled with other equipment, including an FT-NMR, UV-vis spectrophotometer, gas chromatograph and fiber optic fluorescence CCD spectrophotometer, the university enjoys a suite of modern instruments for laboratory instruction and research. A formal



FLIGHT STUDENTS ADVANCE TO NATIONALS

LETU aeronautical science students won third place and won the coveted Hazel Jones Safety Award at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) Region IV competition in Monroe, La. The team will compete at the national flight competition in Murfreesboro, Tenn. in late April. This year marks the second consecutive year that LETU flight students will compete at the national level. NIFA team members are from left, Tom Anderson, Ryan Veenstra (flight instructor), Jared Rowley, Jesse Laster, Laura Laster, Esther Topham, Ashleigh Armstrong, Caleb Quick, Justin Shive, Nathanael Litter, Paul Hildebrandt (coach) and Sam Lloyd.

dedication service will be held early in the spring semester.

DR. AUSTIN HONORED

LeTourneau University President, Dr. Alvin O. Austin has been re-elected to the Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). SACS is the recognized accreditation body in 11 southern states, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, as well as in Latin America, for those institutions of higher education that award associate, baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degrees. Dr. Austin is one of 13 members and is the only commissioner from Texas on the Executive Council. Dr. Austin also was named LeTourneau University's honorary alumnus of the year for his steadfast leadership. As an honorary alumnus, he joins other noted recipients such as Dr. Harry Hardwick, Mrs. R.G. LeTourneau, Paul Glaske, Margaret Estes, Allen C. Tyler, Ralph Gilbert and Gerrie Forbis.

GONZALEZ NAMED 2004 PIPER NOMINEE

Biomedical engineering professor Dr. Roger Gonzalez has been nominated by LeTourneau University deans and faculty for the Piper Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching, sponsored by the Minne Stevens Piper Foundation. The award recognizes professors for outstanding academic, scientific and scholarly achievement and for dedication to the teaching profession. He and his students are presenting three papers on motion analysis and the intelligent prosthetic arm at the Annual Houston Conference on Biomedical Engineering Research.

LONGVIEW PARTNERSHIP HONORS GEER

Caroline Geer, coordinator of information resources for the Margaret Estes Library, was named Committee Chair of the Year by the Longview Partnership at the annual members' banquet. Geer heads the committee that unites business leaders and educators to develop strategies to prepare students to meet the challenges of the future.



WORLD WAR II BUILDING RAZED

The last temporary structure left from the days of the Harmon Army Hospital from the World War II era was razed to make way for a new residence hall. The old structure marked the end of the old, white, asbestos-shingled Harmon Army Hospital buildings. Throughout its 60-year history, the building had served as an officers' club, laundry, cafeteria and business office. Speer Chapel, which is a historic landmark, is the only remaining building from that bygone era.

LETU STUDENT TO SERVE AS DIPLOMACY DELEGATE

LeTourneau business student Nola French at the Houston Educational Center has been nominated to serve as a delegate in the 2004 International Mission on Diplomacy. As a delegate representing the United States, she has the opportunity to travel to Australia to study the history, profession and global impact of diplomacy while interfacing with U.S. and international diplomats, foreign service officers and citizens.

UNDERGRADUATES PRESENT PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH

Three LeTourneau University undergraduate psychology students presented their own scholarly research at the annual Texas Psychology Association convention in Dallas along with psychologists, clinicians, psychology professors and graduate students from around the state. Under the direction of psychology professor Dr. Rod Hetzel, junior Kimberly Krueger of Tyler, Texas, presented her research on how women's God-image affects eating behaviors, while juniors David Runyon of

Spring Arbor, Mich. and Joshua Swain of Longview, Texas, presented their research on how men's religious faith affects their body image and eating habits.

LETU ALUMNUS NAMED TO BUSH ADMINISTRATION

LeTourneau University alumnus Robert McFarland was nominated by President George W. Bush and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs. McFarland graduated with a degree in business management and is a former vice president and general manager of the government sector at Dell Computer Corporation in Austin, Texas.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS HOST ASME CONFERENCE

For the first time ever, LeTourneau University will host the student conference of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for Region 10 March 25-26, attracting about 250 college engineering students from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mexico. The students will

News and Notes

compete in oral presentations, posters and a student design contest in which they must design and build a vehicle that can go over barriers and retrieve simulated land mines and return them to a "safe" zone. LeTourneau University engineering students have won the student design contest for the past five years. Winners will go to national competition in Los Angeles in November.

INVENTION CONTEST DATES SET, APRIL 5-8

Brown Advisory, a Maryland investment and brokerage firm, will be the naming sponsor of the university's annual invention contest, slated for April 5-8, 2004, in the Solheim Arena on the university's Longview campus. The contest, now in its 18th year, promotes creativity and problem solving and offers cash prizes to inventors from 2nd grade through adults. The grand prize winner also gets a free patent search from PlanetPatent.com whose owner/president is LETU alumnus Glen Kotapish of Baltimore, Md. The Web design contest is open only to high school students. More information is available at www.letu.edu/inventioncontest. Entry deadline is March 24.

PILGRIM'S PRIDE PARTNERS WITH LETU

LeTourneau University's adult education program is taking its show on the road this year. In a new partnership with Pilgrim's Pride, employees can choose from the Bachelor of Business Administration degree (BBA) or the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with six different concentration options. Classes will be held at Pilgrim's Pride's Walker Creek Distribution Center in Mount Pleasant, Texas. More than 40 Pilgrim's Pride employees have already turned in applications. The program is currently open only to Pilgrim's Pride employees.

PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

Telephones all across the country will be ringing March 21 through April 1 as LETU students conduct the "Spring Telethon" pledge drive to raise funds for the university's Annual Fund. If you don't get called this time, don't worry. The fall telephone pledge drive, "Phonathon," will be Sept. 19-30.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

■ Political Science professor **Dr. Paul Kubricht** served as faculty reader for the Educational Testing Service European AP history test at the University of Nebraska and was a fellow at the 2003 University of Illinois Research Laboratory on Russia and Eastern Europe, researching Czech theologian Josef Hromadka and the Czech Catholic party.

■ Dean of the School of Business **Dr. Bob Roller** was elected to a three-year term and was selected to be the vice-chair/chair-elect of the Board of Commissioners of the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE), the accrediting board for business schools.

■ With co-authors **Dr. John Feezell** and **Dr. Brent Ellis**, **Dr. Roller** also presented a paper titled "E-Portfolios: A Tool for Encouraging and Assessing the Integration of Faith, Learning, Living and Christian Leadership" at the 2003 Christian Business Faculty Association Conference at Regent University in Virginia.

■ **Dr. Roller's** work with co-authors **Dr. Brett Andrews** (Oklahoma Wesleyan University) and **Steven Bovee** (Roberts

Wesleyan College) resulted in a published paper titled "Specialized Accreditation of Business Schools: A Comparison of Alternative Costs, Benefits and Motivations" in *The Journal of Education for Business*.

■ **Dr. Roller** and **Dr. Wayne Jacobs**, chair of the Kinesiology Department, also presented "PowerPoint for Not-So-Dummies" at the annual convention of the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

■ **Dr. Jacobs** and his wife, adjunct business professor **Karen Jacobs**, recently co-presented two workshops at the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Responses were so favorable from the presentations that two additional programs have been tentatively scheduled for the next convention in Arlington, Texas, in December 2004.

■ Business professor **Dr. Juan Castro** co-authored a new book, *Honduras: Why and how to Dollarize?* and had a paper on Chile accepted for publication in the *Journal of Financial Economic Practice*.

■ Biblical studies chair **Dr. Scott Hummel** will lead a student missionary group to Turkey during spring break in March. His article, "Athens in Paul's Time," was published in the fall 2003 issue of the *Biblical Illustrator*, which also is publishing



ALL ABOARD

Dr. James J.S. Johnson, adjunct faculty member in the Dallas Education Center, shows off his LeTourneau pride (and hat) in St. Malo, France, aboard Orient Lines' *Marco Polo*. Besides teaching for LeTourneau, Dr. Johnson also lectures on cruise ships.



GLASKE RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Dr. Steve Ball began a recycling initiative in the faculty offices of Glaske Center. If successful, this initiative may be implemented campuswide in the fall 2004. Pictured from left are **Ted Forringer**, **André Elliott**, **Sarah Lockridge**, **Leonard Brenner**, **Dr. Ball**, **Karen Austin**, **Oscar Ortiz**, **Paul Boggs**, **Dr. Gary DeBoer**, **Dr. Amiel Jarstfer**, **Dr. Don Knoop**, **Dr. Greg Reynolds**, **Dr. Bill Graff**, **Gene Shields**, **Dr. Paul Leiffer** and **Dr. Kyun Lee**.

his article on "The Life and Times of Uzziah."

■ Biblical studies professor **Dr. Renate Hood** will present a socio-anthropological analysis of the confrontation between Paul and Cephas in Galatians titled "Ethnic and Religious Profiling: Compelling the Gentiles at Antioch" at the Society of Biblical Literature meeting in March.

■ **Dr. Hood's** review of the book, *Christianity at the Religious Roundtable: Evangelicals in Conversation with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam*, by Timothy C. Tennent, was published in the October issue of *Christian Ethics Today*.

■ Bible professor **Dr. Ronnie Hood's** review of *Change Across Cultures: A Narrative Approach to Social Transformation* by Bruce Bradshaw was published in the January issue of *Christian Ethics Today*.

■ Houston Educational Center adjunct professor **Richard Schmidt** made a presentation entitled "Corporate Culture" at the Academy of Accounting Historians.

■ Mathematics professor **Roger Erickstad** was appointed as field representative for the Voice of the Martyrs, representing the persecuted church.

■ English professor **Dr. Annie Olson**

chaired a special session on discourse analysis in composition studies at the South Central Modern Language Association conference and presented a paper called "Beyond Nystrand's 'Reciprocity Theory': Exploring the Scope of Dialogue Discourse Analysis."

■ English professor **Dr. Harvey Solganick** was elected Secretary for the Conference on Christianity and Literature section of the South Central Modern Language Association meeting next year in New Orleans and was named president-elect for the Conference on Christianity and Literature section meeting the following year in Houston.

■ **Dr. Solganick** and **Dr. Martin Batts** both presented papers at the South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature in New Orleans. The conference's theme was "Images of the Sacred: Myth, Folklore and Symbol." Dr. Batts presented a paper titled "Gilbert (Keith Chesterson) and Clive (Staples Lewis): Mere Christians." Dr. Solganick's paper was "The Mythopoetic Psyche of C.S. Lewis' *Till We Have Faces: The Word, the Truth and the Light*." Both papers were well received and sparked lively discussions following both presentations.

■ Dean of the School of Education **Dr. Sherilyn Emberton** presented a paper titled, "Educator Preparation—A Value-Added Approach" at the Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education conference in San Antonio.

■ Education professor **Shari Mills** and reading instructor **Kathy Stephens** were selected to serve on the state executive board of the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading (TAIR).

■ Assistant Chief Flight Instructor **Phil Rispin** provided a presentation on Aviation Weather Text products to the East Texas Flight Instructors Association (ETFIA).

■ Assistant Chief Flight Instructor **Bruce Chase** gave a presentation titled "PC Simulation in Pilot Training: Using Microsoft Flight Simulator to Reduce Flight Training Time" at the University Aviation Association (UAA) annual conference.

■ Psychology professor **Dr. Rod Hetzel** spoke on "Compulsive Sexual Behavior: Clinical Strategies for Christian Counseling" at the Christian Association for Psychological Studies Southwest Regional Conference.

Information Superhighway Replaces Paper Trail

Written by Amy Halbert

The image of eager college applicants scribbling out their information on paper applications in hopes of receiving those highly coveted "acceptance" letters from the college of their dreams is beginning to fade as more and more students take to the Web to fill out college applications.

Prospective LeTourneau University students have been able to submit their applications electronically since October 2001. Since then, the number of online applications has climbed steadily. In fall 2003, 49.7 percent of the incoming applications came from students applying electronically. As of January 2004, the number of online applications jumped to 62 percent, with only 38 percent arriving through the mail.

Mark Roedel and David Zappasodi of the Information Technology department worked to get the application online and functioning properly.

"Mark programmed the online application to accept the data," explained James Townsend, Director of Admissions, "and David made it so that the data could be rolled directly into the admissions database. With this improvement, only minimal editing and cleanup by the admissions records clerk is necessary.

"The move from paper to online applications has been an incredible timesaver," said Townsend. "Online

applications take about half the time to process as paper ones."

Students also are benefiting from the online format. The electronic application looks just like the paper version, and once students start the application process, they can stop and save it at any time, then return to finish it when they are ready. There is no waiting for the application to arrive in the mail or worrying about illegible handwriting.

Once students start their applications online, admissions counselors follow their progress, send them personalized e-mails and call them to let them know what is missing from their applications. Townsend also e-mails students who have not finished their applications for a prolonged period.

"We can pull up students' applications, see where they are in the application process and help by answering questions or handling problems as they arise," said Teresa Huey, admissions records clerk. "Then we can encourage them to finish."

Since the technology used to create the application is housed on campus, the LeTourneau Admissions office is able to make changes and adapt the forms quickly.

"Many schools outsource the technology behind the electronic applications and are limited to what kind of changes they can make," Townsend said. "We're not restricted like a lot of other schools. Mark, David and many others on the IT staff have provided incredible support to us and this process."

In the future, applicants will be able to set up a LeTourneau Web account and monitor the status of their applications through the entire process, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We still see the need for some paper applications for students who don't have access to a computer or just prefer to write it out," Townsend said. "We probably won't ever get away from paper completely, but the technology has made our job easier." ■